THE CASE, OF THE LOW-CHURCH AND THE HIGH-STEEPLE Exactly Stated:

BEING

A faithful Relation of Matter of Fact, very necessary, at this time, for all Persons to know, of all Ranks and Degrees whatsoever, both in Church and State, who fears God, honours the Queen, loves Justice, and hates Oppression.

Envy thou not the Oppressor; nor choose none of his Ways. Prov. Chap. III. ver. 31.

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THE CASE OF THE LOW-CHURCH AND THE HIGH-STEEPLE, &c.

THE reason of this Publication, is not out of the vanity of being in Print, or any covetous Desire of Gain by it, but only design'd to help my Fellow Creature, who being my Friend, and a private Person, and lying under great Oppression of some Persons of popular Estimation, who take the advantage of their publick Station in the World, to prepossess the Ears of Authority with a mistaken Representation of *Matter of Fact*, to the great disadvantage, and prejudice of him, who is really Injured and Oppressed; for such is the great disadvantage and imperfection of finite Mortal Beings, that, notwithstanding the greatest Cunning, and the most judicious fore-sight of Determiners, they are very often under the great necessity of taking Matters of Evidence upon Credit, as well as other things relating to Traffick, and that too, is often received, or believed, according to the vulgar Estimation, or Credit is given of the Party relating it.

A Relation of Matters from those we Honour, Esteem, or Love, it most powerfully commands our assent: Thus popular Repute, and natural Affection confounds the Judgment; hood-winks the Will; and ravishes the Understanding; forcing even a Determination

nation of the Matter, too commonly, on the wrong Side: So that for a private Person, labouring under these great Disadvantages, what proper Course is to be taken for his speedy Redress of these popular Grievances; to repair to the Magistrate, is but to go where his Adversary, by a plausible Accusation, has secretly undermined him, and has made his Case too odious for him to expect Relief; and, indeed, he must be more than a Man, that can, thro' the cunning Artifice of a plausible Evidence of popular Vogue and Estimation, give Judgment on the private Person's side, that has no worldly Advantage to procure him Favour and Justice, but an unfashionable Modesty, and natural Innocency, which, to the Eye of the World, appears so unpleasing, as to be taken rather for Guilt than Innocence. Thus Falshood being dress'd up so much like Truth and Reality, that the most honest and impartial Judge sometimes is so betray'd, as to take the Counterfeit for Reality; and now, since Infallibility is not to be admitted in human Affairs, 'tis a Misfortune, rather than a Fault, for an honest Man to be Out, and the most upright Judge to be Mistaken; what Sanctuary therefore can poor obscure Innocence take to, but Providence, that so powerfully Super-intends all human Affairs, as to inspect and inspire the wise Determinator of the Cause, with such a true Impression of Matter of Fact, as, notwithstanding the popular Vogue of Gain-sayers, shall determine the Matter rightly on the private Person's side?

In hopes of so kind assistance of a propitious Providence, I now set about this charitable Undertaking; and, with all the Exactness imaginable, give the World a just Account of my Friend's Case, without reflecting on any Person concern'd in his Oppression, no more than the real Relation of Matter shall occasion.

BE it known unto all Men therefore, That in the Year 1708. some few of the Parishoners of the Parish of *Woodford*, in the County of *Essex*, with the Parson, was very Ambitious to have a new Steeple erected to the Church, and in order to have their Design effected, the Parson with his Party, got one *John Nicholson*, Esq; formerly an *East-India* Captain, and now commencing a stingy Churchwarden, a Man of reputed Wealth, but very little of it lying in the said Parish, *viz.* but about 17 *l.* a Year, besides a House lately erected for his own Habitation; so that he could be very frank in joining in the Steeple Building, without any danger of imposing any considerable Charge upon himself by a pound Rate, as was designed, to raise Money for the paying for it. Upon this assurance of Building a Steeple at other People's Cost,

oſt, with little or nothing of his own, he clandeſtinely and bitrarily Demoliſhes the Old Steeple, without the Conſent of oſe of the Pariſh, that were to pay moſt towards it; and with-t either Licenſe from the Biſhop, or Conſent of the Ordinary, hich, without any farther Diſpute, proves his Proceedings to clandeſtine and illegal: But, in ſpite of Law and Reaſon, they e reſolved to have a New Steeple, and that too, much bigger and gher than the Old One; and, indeed, ſo imprudently Contrived, to be ſo unſizeable, as not to agree with the Low Church, no ore than the Charge of Building did agree with thoſe Perſons ncerned moſt in the Paying for it, that is, the poor Tenants and ndholders; for by reaſon of a great deal of Prodigality and Folly the Contrivers of this miraculous Fabrick, the Charge thereof ounts to above 600 *l.* without the Bells being hung, or any thing ne within-ſide. The cauſe of this extravagant Charge was caſioned ſeveral Ways.

As *Firſt*, By the ill Contrivance in Building a Veſtry under-ath, and ſo cauſing the Charge of another Floor, and conſe-ently ſo many Foot higher; when, if they had ſtudied the Sa-ng part, they might have Builded a Veſtry on one ſide of the eple, more Commodious, and leſs Expenſive by a Floor and eral Thouſands of Bricks, which, inſtead of having them at the t Hand, and beſt Sort, they choſe to give 17 *s.* a thouſand, en they might have made better at Home; the whole Charge ounting but at 8 *s.* and 3 *d.* a thouſand

In the next place, what a Conſcience they made of their Church ork, may thus appear: What Timber their Workmen, for their n Ends, told them was not fit to be uſed in the Building, the urchwarden, Capt. *Nicholſon*, gave away, which have been to the Repairing of Out-Houſes.

In the next place, there was a conſiderable quantity of Rubbiſh onging to the Ruins of the old Steeple, by a modeſt Computa-n in quantity above three or fourſcore Loads, worth very well Crown a Load for Manure of Ground, and might have been ned to a more profitable Uſe, being ſifted and mixed, inſtead Sand for Mortar; but notwithſtanding the neceſſary and pro-ble Uſe it might have been put to in the Building, the profuſe urchwarden made a noble Preſent of it to his Predeceſſor, who, hout much ſtudy, converted it to the Manuring of his Ground; Man charging about Ten Pounds for fetching of Sand, that up almoſt as much Lime again, as the Rubbiſh mix'd and lied to the ſame Uſe would have done. By reaſon of ſuch pro-ious Waſte, and ſacrilegious Imbezilments, the now ill-con-

trived Structure, called *The High-Steeple*, amounted to the Sum already mentioned; and as to it, and to the profuse Management in the Building, I shall only apply a part of an old Song composed on the like occasion; that is, *Hang Sorrow, cast away Care, for the Parish is bound to find it*; for they mean not to be at any considerable Charge themselves, as plainly appears by their rigorous and rough Proceedings at a Vestry called for that purpose, *Sept.* the 13th, 1708. where, in Course, I come now to show the great Baseness and Injustice they used to my Friend, Mr. *Richard Dawson*, who is an Inhabitant in the said Parish of *Woodford*, and also Overseer of the Poor the said Year, and so had a lawful Call to the Vestry, where Capt. *Nicholson* and his Party were for throwing the great Charge of the Steeple upon the Tenants and Landholders; and, as I am very well informed with what Modesty and Prudence my Friend *Dawson* behaved himself, giving no ill Language, nor offering any thing but what was just and reasonable, as became a good Parishoner and Landholder, telling them plainly his Judgment, *That the Steeple was too unsizeable and disagreeable to the Church, and what a piece of Hardship it was, for the poor Tenants to pay so much towards it*; which stirred up their Choler, and caused reproachful Language, which provoked my Friend *Dawson* to leave of Complements, and tell these huffing pretending Rulers of the Parish, *That as their Effects in the Parish were but inconsiderable, when compared to the Tenants and Landholders, so it was a piece of Sordidness to be generous with other People's Pockets:* And this was, as I am faithfully informed, all the ill Language my Friend *Dawson* gave them; for which they most unjustly and barbarously used him; the Churchwarden, Captain *Nicholson*, calling him, *Sirrah, you are a Rascal*; and in reply my Friend *Dawson* only asked him, in a civil manner, *Sir, wherein, or how will you prove me a Rascal?* To which the choloric Churchwarden answer'd, *Now if I had a Sword*, (tho' in the Judgment of both Parties Crutches were more proper for him than Weapon, which plainly show'd the Challenge to be given by the Gouty Champion, rather than by my Friend *Dawson*, tho' by reason of the Parson of the said Parish of *Woodford*, so swearing Challenge against my Friend *Dawson*: For he, with two other of like Consciences with this unworthy Parson's Master, swore *That my Friend* Dawson *Challenged Capt.* Nicholson, *the Churchwarden*, which, according to Information upon Oath before *Onslow*, Esq; Justice of the Peace, being one of the Vestry, and the Churchwarden's Party, most willingly granted his Warrant to bring the said *Richard Dawson* before him, or some other Justi

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of the Peace; and so the Constable, according to his Duty, coming to my Friend *Dawson*'s House, told him very civilly, *He had a Warrant to carry him before a Justice of the Peace*; and upon a perusal of the Warrant, he found what it was for, which something surprized him, knowing he gave not the least occasion for it; so upon consulting some Friends, who could not chuse but be concerned at this Proceedings; and advised him if he could, to go before another Justice of the Peace, and so requesting the Constable's favour in the matter, which the Constable condescended to, and carried my Friend before another neighbouring Justice, *viz. Wroth*, my Friend *Dawson* civilly sending word to his Accusers to meet him there; but no Body coming, the said Justice *Wroth* advised my Friend *Dawson* to go before Justice *Onslow*, who granted the Warrant, and, according to his Advice and Direction he did go; perhaps it may be too a great Digression to inquire whether the Warrant was not discharged by the Prisoner's going before Justice *Wroth*, there being no body that appeared against him, therefore I'll return to the Point, and tell you that my Friend *Dawson* did immediately, with the Constable, repair to Justice *Onslow*'s House, and he being not at Home acquainted his Lady that he was come before her Husband, in Order to his Warrant, and that upon his Return (the which she said, would be in three or four Days time) he would wait upon him; and so the Constable took my Friend's word to be forth coming. And when the Justice return'd home, he went with the Constable before the said Justice *Onslow*, who, in a haughty manner, demanded of the said *Richard Dawson*, the reason why he did not first come before him? To which my Friend *Dawson*, in a very civil manner, reply'd, saying, in these very Words, *Sir, your Warrant being not special, I thought it not so proper to come before you, because, Sir, you are a Party concerned*; (meaning the Churchwarden's Party.) And this was all the Provocation that my honest Oppressed Friend gave the said Justice *Onslow*, as is already attested upon Oath of several credible Witnesses; but such is the unaccountable effect of Pride, where it is invested with Authority, that it sticks at nothing to effect its Ends. So, tho' nothing more was said, nor nothing more modestly could be said, yet the Justice ordered his Clark to set it down, that he called him a *Partial Justice*, and so he bound him over to the next Quarter-Sessions at *Chelmford*, for abusing the Justice; and likewise for a Challenge, as is pretended, to fight the Churchwarden. And when the Churchwarden refused to be bound to Prosecute, 'tis very particularly Remarkable how rigorous the Justice espoused

the Cause of the *High Steeple*, contrary to the usual Moderation and Prudence that have been very perspicuous in others of his worthy Family, *Eheu tanta Differentia Fratrum*; how different Brothers are in Temper or Disposition: For when the said *Richard Dawson* desired to know who should be his Prosecutor, says Justice *Onslow* to the Prisoner, *Dawson take you no Care for that*; *I will find a Prosecutor*; how becoming a Justice of Peace, and one of the *Quorum* too, I leave to the Consideration of better Judgments; my Design is only to relate matter of Fact, therefore I proceed to take Notice what was done at *Chelmford*, against this innocent and oppressed Man.

The next Quarter-Sessions Justice *Onslow* appears against my Friend *Dawson*, with the whole Body (as they term themselves) of Gentry, though every one, except the Justice and one more, was Tradesmen and Citizens of *London*; some residing in little Country Houses they Rent, and some having some of their own: These Rulers of *Woodford*, so trick'd up with Swords and long Wigs, pass'd current at *Chelmford* for Persons of noble Descent, appearing as much like Gentlemen, as their Swords and Wigs could make them; and so, supposing their taking Aspects would procure them Favour, they moved against my Friend *Dawson* with all the Fury and Malice imaginable, preferring two Indictments, one for a Challenge, another for abusing the *Justice*, both equally groundless and frivolous, and so esteemed by the Grand-Jury, and so they brought them in *Ignoramus*; but the Malice of the Person was so great as to swear in open Court such Things that was never spoke nor thought on, so that the Jury was sent out again, and after a great deal of Debate, about twelve of the three or four and twenty, consented to find the Bill against my Friend, for abusing the *Justice*; and so he was obliged to enter into a Recognizance, to try it the next Quarter-Sessions, and so in Order to it he repaired to *Chelmford*, at the Sessions, with four or five credible Witnesses with him, to try the Travers; and when it came to be heard his Adversaries, that is the Parson, the Justice, and his Clark, the latter only appearing and making Oath that the Parson was Sick and not able to come, and the Justice was gone a Journey, though at the same Time the latter was at home, and the Parson at the same Time paying a Visit two Miles from his own House, which was pritty well for a sick Person: And now tho' my Friend *Dawson* pressed for a Tryal or Acquittal, yet it could not be granted him, but still they would continue him bound over, which hard Usage he did endeavour to shun for the future, by bringing a *Certiorari*, which accordingly was done, and his Adversaries having put him to all the Expence and Vexation they possibly could

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on this Occasion, they having no Ground to maintain their malicious Prosecution, they thought it not for their Interest to appear at the Assizes; and so no body appearing against my Friend, he was brought in not Guilty by the Jury, by the Order and Direction of the Judge, and in order according to Custom, he and his Attorney waited upon that worthy Gentleman Judge *Tracey* to desire a Copy of the Inditement, that so he might sue for those Costs and Damages, his Adversaries had put him to by their frivolous and malitious Prosecution, and having brought his Action upon the Case, against the principal and chief Ring-leader of Mischief, and the said Justice *Onslow*, and his Clark (one *Philip Traberne*) at the last Assizes it was tried at *Chelmford*, before Judge *Tracey*, where all matters were proved so plainly; that the honest Jury found them all three Guilty, and gave my Friend *Dawson* 45 Pound Damages, as was proved upon Oath he had been out of Pocket by their most malicious Prosecution, without setting down any thing, for his own or Witnesses Time, and other Expences he has been at, a great Deal more considerable than the Charges the Jury granted: But now, notwithstanding all this barbarous Usage, they still continue their malicious Attempts in moving for a new Trial, which, thro' Favour, they obtained, and so my Oppressed Friend is to undergo another Fatigue at the next Assizes, and is threatened with a select Jury of Gentlemen, who are to cast him as they confidently give out, but as to this, I leave it to their serious Consideration, who, I hope have more Conscience, after hearing this faithful Relation I have here given them of my Friend *Dawson*'s Case, and what besides his honest Witnesses will faithfully make out upon Oath, at the Trial, than to do so unjust a thing as to give it against him.

In farther Vindication of my Friend *Dawson*, in the cause now depending, and to clear him of these Slanders his Adversaries thinks fit to bespatter him with, the better to excuse their malicious and groundless Prosecution agianst him, is that they report him to be a litigous or contentious Fellow, and one that is for siding with the common People against Gentlemen. In Answer to this most notorious Falsity, I do most faithfully assure the World, that my Friend *Dawson* is so far from being a contentious, or litigious Person, that he endeavours as much as possibly to live Peaceable with all Men; and he never had a Cause in his Life before this, that ever came before Judge or Jury; and as to his Conversation it has ever been with more conscientious, genteel and worthy Persons, than his malicious Accusers, he having had the Benefit of an ingenious Education at the University, where he carried himself

himself with that Modesty, and Reputation as to gain himself Love and Respect of his Superiours; the Rector and Fellows of the Colledge showing great Favour and Respect to him; and upon his Leaving the said Colledge, the Head and Fellows showed a great Concern for the Loss of him; and so my Friend left a good Name behind him, and carried a good Reputation away with him, and had all his Teeth too, which is more than a bulky Graduate did, who had the Misfortune of his whole Set of Grinders to be lost and imbezil'd, by reason, as Philosophers assert of the violent Agitation of the Particles, in the unsound Act of Carnal Copulation.

To give farther Account of my Friend's Behaviour in the World, when he came to the *Inns-of-Court*, where he still maintained his Honesty and his Modesty, and for that Reason not so likely to grasp Preferment, which most commonly falls to the confident Pretenders; but though he could not so readily obtain any legal Post of Preferment, yet he had the Advantage to know so much of the Law, as to defend himself and Estate, which most eminently appeared by the prudent, legal, and honest Defence he made in the Cause now depending, which his Adversaries little expected from him, when Justice *Onslow* sent the Constable with Menaces to bring 3 or 4 reputable Persons along with him for to be his Security, or else he would send him to Goal, which accordingly my Friend did bring 3 or 4 of his Neighbours, the honest Farmers of Repute and Substance, two of which were security for his appearing the next Quarter-Sessions; and so being present with the Constable and those others that the said *Dawson* brought along with him, all happen'd, by a kind Providence, to prove very serviceable, as being able faithfully to attest the groundless and frivolous Cause of Justice *Onslow*'s Prosecution: Tho' they are pleased to slander him with the odious Character of a Litigious and Contentious Fellow, yet it plainly appears there is no ground for such a Slander, in as much as he was for the most part Defendant; and when he became Plaintiff, 'twas only in order to recover those great Costs and Dammages his Adversaries put him to in their vexatious Prosecution.

As to my Friend *Dawson*'s next Accusation, that is, as they say, his Consorting with the Mob, and those of mean Character which is as False and Malicious as the former; he always confining himself within the compass of some few of his Relations and particular Acquaintance; and had no Conversation with the Poor and Illiterate, no otherwise than when they came to be relieved, or assisted with Counsel and Advice, which they often come for.

My Friend was never no great Talker, nor ambitious of being a Governour in the Parish, as may be seen how seldom he appear'd at the Vestry, and how little he Opposed them, unless in this particular Case; wherein he thought himself obliged, in Conscience, to Oppose, to prevent the Ruin of the Farmers and Land-holders, in paying so extravagantly for the unsizeable Fabrick, call'd *The High-Steeple*. My Friend thinks it an act of Superstition to stand up so rigorously for Erecting a *Dead Steeple* to the utter Ruin of the *Living Congregation*, and Oppress'd People; a Project as ridiculous, and carries as much confusion in it, as the Tower of *Babel*; with this difference, That whereas one caused the confusion of Tongues, so the latter, *viz.* the *Steeple*, the confusion, or rather the consumption of Purses, as will too fatally prove in the sequel: As if the Calamities of War, and Scarcity of Bread-Corn, could not Impoverish us fast enough, but the unreasonable Expence of Building a Steeple so unsizeable to the Church, and so disagreeable with the present State of Affairs, must be added, to effect the thorow Ruin of the poor Farmers and Land-holders.

In the next place, I think fit to give the World an Account of those famously concern'd in this unseasonable Undertaking, that so the Prodigality and Folly that truly belongs to those foolish Projectors, may not be ascribed to the whole Parish of *Woodford*; whereas these Monument-Makers are but one inconsiderable number, if rightly computed, in respect to the far more considerable number of the Parish.

Therefore here follows a Catalogue of those Zealots which are for Burdening the Parish of *Woodford*.

To begin with the Right Worshipful Justice *Onslow*, who, out of respect, I ought to set in the Front of this Body of Gentry; a Person whom Her Majesty has honoured with the Commission of the Peace for *Essex*; and according to a due Reverence of Authority we ought to treat him with respect; and, truly, if we consider either his Original, as a Branch of a worthy Family, and near Ally to that worthy and honourable Person, Sir *Richard Onslow*, the Honourable Speaker of the *House of Commons*, I could heartily wish he had chose a more reputable Party; But since he thinks otherwise, 'tis not my Business to censure, or reflect, but truly to acquaint the World, that he is one of the great Admirers of the Building, called the *High Steeple* of *Woodford*. What Estate he has in the said Parish, is at most Eight and Forty Pounds a Year, and he is entituled to that in the Right of his Wife, it being Part of a Joynture she had by a former Husband.

The next Person to the Justice, is by Name *Samuel Weatherhead*,

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a famous Witness against my Friend *Dawson*; and to be exact in his Evidence he swears by Notes: His Effects in the Parish are so inconsiderable, that one would think him no ways, for Substance, fit to be the *Bell-weather* of the Parish; his whole demeans in that, with House and Land, amounting but to eighteen Pounds a Year; his Conscience is so large, and Soul so narrow, as to be rated in the Parish Rates but at twelve Pound a Year; but how sure though by Estate in the Parish he may not be qualifyed for a Ruler, yet, by his rapacious Stomach at the publick Charge, his Canine Appetite at Rabbits and Fouls at a Parish Treat, bespeaks him Destined for a High Parish-Officer. To give now his Original, because he pretends to be a Member of the said Body of Gentry, but in reality a privy One, he first was a Threadman, now a Factor of *London*, a Gentleman at *Woodford*, and *Samuel Weatherhead*, Esq; at *Chelmford*; thus much for this Evidence; and now from *Weatherhead* I proceed to *Weathertail*, another very peremptory Witness against my Friend *Dawson*, who pretends to be as thorough-paced a Swearer as his Brother in Iniquity; though 'tis very remarkable, by some Standers by, at the Tryal, how his Conscience flew in his Face, and was all over red as Blood, while he stammers out his Evidence; but rather then be so aukward next time, he will, 'tis thought, make use of his Brother's Notes; and though they both vouch the same Falsity, 'tis remarkable how they had different Aspects; one looking so red, as if his Ears were crop'd off, or would be so; the other so Pale and Wane, as if terribly griped; but whether by Stool or Conscience I cannot determine: As for what Estate he has in the Parish, it is but Eight and Fifty Pound a Year, as he is rated, and as he reckons it himself. Another of these mighty Sticklers for the Steeple, is the present Overseer, by Trade a Woollen-Draper, and about Fifty Pounds a Year in *Woodford*, in right of a former Wife; and the next to him is a Linnen-Draper, all his Interest in the Parish is only this, that he Rents a House of seventeen Pounds a Year, yet he thinks himself as mighty a Vestry-Man, and as fit for a Governour as any of them all. There was one honest Gentleman amongst them, of as worthy a Family as the Worshipful Justice *Onslow*'s, who Rents a House and Land in the Parish about forty Pounds a Year, that was deluded to go down to *Chelmford*, against my Friend *Dawson*, the first Time to make a glorious Appearance, but since perceiving the Baseness of the Steeple Builders has the Sence and Honour to desert them. There is also a *West-India* Merchant that is a like Party concerned for the Steeple, His Effects in the Parish is but 13 Pound a Year, a little House and Land which

he Rents, but to give him his Due, I take to be a Person of a more gentteel Spirit then the rest of his Vestry Brethren, because he did not go down with their Body of Gentry against my Friend to *Chelmford*. There is another Steeple Votary also, that has an Estate in the Parish, that he owns himself about 38 Pound a Year obtained by the Placket; That being something more crafty then the rest, God knows, would not be long before he came over to the other Side, if he was certain that Side would prevail.

The second Post of Honour is the Rear, and therefore I think fit to place the Toothless *Casuist*, the Circumcis'd Doctor, who has been a great and violent Promoter of the *Steeple* Building in the Parish, and for that reason may be properly stiled *The Belfry-Divine*; though to *give the D. his due*, as the saying is, he does very well in the Pulpit, whilst there, and doth as freely distribute good palpable Second-hand Doctrine to the People, giving them as large Doses of Gospel Directions and Admonitions, as any one of his Function, and more in a Day, than he himself makes use of in a whole Year, especially those sort of Christian Instructions which relates to Peace-making, and Reconciling of Differences amongst Neighbours, and parochial Inhabitants; for, truly, 'tis very particular, that he takes as much pains and delight in setting People together by the Ears, as those of his Coat used to do in making up Breaches, and reconciling of Differences: And this he has been very Remarkable for, both in the said Parish he is now in, and in that he came from; *A false Witness that speaketh Lies, and him that soweth Discord among his Brethren, the Lord hates*, Prov. vi. 19.

These are, I think, all the Persons of Note that belong to the foolish Structure, call'd *The High-Steeple*; the Sum Total of their Revenues in the Parish, put all together, amounts to not so much as 300 and 50*l.* a Year, and about Eight or Ten of the common Sort, that are Voters for the Steeple, which consists of poor indigent Handicraft Tradesmen, as three *Smiths*, one *Wheelright*, one *Carpenter*, one *Bricklayer*, one false-hearted *Plaisterer*, and two *Ale-Drapers*, whose whole Rents and Profits, take them all together, amounts to no more than three or fourscore Pounds a Year; so that take the Profits of both the sort of Sticklers for the Steeple, amounts to about 400*l.* a Year, which, to a Parish consisting of 17 or 1800*l.* a Year, must needs be reckoned but an inconsiderable Part; what reason then the fifth Part should impose Taxes and parochial Charges on the other four, is proper to be determined by the Sages of the Land's judicious Dispenser of Law and Equity?

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And also, what great Offence can it be, in Reason, I with Submission propose, for my Friend, in his going with the Constable, in a civil manner, before another Justice of Peace, rather than before him that granted the Warrant, I think may safely be left to be determined by a Jury of Gentlemen, who, if they have either respect to Justice, and the Right of the Cause, must give it for my Friend *Dawson*. I do verily believe, That scarce any one of the whole Bench of Justices would have been for thus Judging in their own Cause; as to pretend to punish a Man for going before another Justice, as Justice *Onslow* did, but would rather have referr'd the Prisoner and his Cause to the Determination of another Justice of Peace, a thing that is usual and practicable on such like Cases; but as to this, I leave it to the mature Consideration of the Judge the next Assizes.

I come next to mention a Person I happened to omit out of the Catalogue of the Body of the Gentry, that is, the Churchwarden, *John Nicholson*, Esq; for though he was so Cholerick, as to begin the Quarrel with my Friend *Dawson*, yet he being not for Prosecuting him, as the others so furiously did, I shall say but little, concluding, 'tis Punishment enough for him to pay for the Steeple; which must needs be a very great Charge for one that has but a House and Land of about 25 *l.* a Year in the said Parish.

To conclude therefore, only adding one thing by way of Apology, to acquaint the Reader, That the reason of my reciting of the Original of several Professions of those Sticklers against my Friend *Dawson*, is not out of any proud and haughty Reflection on their Trades, or Professions, which he allows to be reputable, profitable, and honourable; but only by reason of their appearing with such a mighty Grace and Confidence against him at *Chelmsford*, calling themselves by the great Title of the whole Body of Gentry, where, as when we come to the Truth of the Matter, in proper speaking, there is another sort of Mankind that justly claims the Title of Gentry, they that Live of their own, without occupying any Trade, or Mechanical Profession; and these, according to the Custom and Law of *Great Britain*, are properly stiled the Gentry. As for my Friend *Dawson*, tho' he is no Trade himself, yet, I will assure you, he is not ashamed to own himself the Son of a Tradesman; and tho' he bears as good a Coat of Arms as some others, yet he values the Honesty and Reputation of his Ancestors, far before whatever the Herald can afford him: And, truly, 'tis something hard, that a Person as my Friend *Dawson* is, whose self and Family has enjoy'd a

considerable

onſiderable Eſtate in the Pariſh for almoſt fifty Years, ſhould be un down by thoſe that have ſo little Concern in the Pariſh, and ut new Comers to it.

And alſo another thing, 'Tis thought a great Hardſhip, and ery Unreaſonable, that ſuch a Pariſh as *Woodford* is, that have o many conſiderable Eſtates in it, ſhould be totally Governed y One of the Tribe of *Levi*, and Seventeen of the Tribe of *Gad*: Tis a Misfortune theſe mighty Sticklers for the Steeple, whoſe Genius lies mightily in Building Churches, ſhould have no Genius at all in Paying for it; ſo that if there ſhould happen to be Propoſal for paying towards it, inſtead of a Pound Rate to raiſe Contribution according to Ability, how ſoon the wealthy Body of Gentry, (with their high Prieſt) would change their Note, and plead Poverty, and deſire in popular Eſtimation to be mean and inconſiderable, and inſtead of pretending to be a Body of Gentry, aſſume to themſelves the nature of Rabbets, that is, to be Fat and Lean in four and twenty Hours time.

What I have faithfully informed the World in the behalf of my Friend, I hope may be as faithfully received, and believed by thoſe concerned in the Determination of the Matter at his Trial, which I hope will be Honeſt, Conſcientious, and Impartial Gentlemen; and I pray God direct all things for the beſt, and grant both Judge and Jury a right Underſtanding in all things.

May Judge and Jury rightly underſtand
The Cauſe, to eaſe the poor Oppreſſed Man;
Baniſhing all Oppreſſors from the Land,
Now in this happy Reign of Great Queen ANNE.

FINIS.

considerable Estate in the Funds for administering Every Family, [illegible]
[illegible] by which that Part of Public Concern in our Family, and
[illegible] new Concern to it.

And as to another Thing, [illegible] a great Hardship, and
very Unreasonable, that such a Family as Mounford's, that have
many considerable Estates in it, should be totally Governed
One of the Tribe of Levi, and Seventeen Parts [illegible]
is a Hit forward the mighty Stickler for the Steeple, while
[illegible] Building Churches, should have no Ge-
[illegible] in Paying for it; to that if they should happen to be
[illegible] all in Paying for it, instead of a Rate towards
[illegible] for paying towards it, instead of a Rate towards
[illegible] according to Ability, how [illegible] wealthy Family
[illegible] (with their high Pride) would disapprove their Proto-
[illegible] Country, and differ in popular Elections to Parliament
[illegible] Government, and instead of proving to be a Power of
[illegible] incorruptible, and instead of proving to be a Power of
[illegible] Country, affirm it shewed the nature of Rabbies, that is, to
[illegible] Fat and Lean in four and twenty Hours time.

What I have faithfully informed the World in the Laying of
my Friend, I hope may be as faithfully approved, and believed
[illegible] which concerned in the Dispensation of the Power of his
[illegible] which I hope will be [illegible] Conscientiously and Impar-
[illegible] and I pray [illegible] Allwise [illegible]
[illegible] grant both Judge and Jury a right Understanding in all
[illegible]ings.

May Judge and Jury rightly understand
The Cause, to save the poor Oppressed Man;
Confuting all Opposers from the Kim,
Now in his lofty Reign of Great Queen Anne.

FINIS.